

Economic Growth Region 6 Summary

Indiana Economic Growth Region 6 is located in eastern Indiana and is comprised of Blackford, Delaware, Fayette, Henry, Jay, Randolph, Rush, Union and Wayne Counties. The Muncie Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) is included in the region. Muncie MSA consists of only Delaware County. Muncie, the largest city in the region with 19.2 percent of the region population, is located in the northern part of the region and approximately 55 miles northeast of Indianapolis. Other major cities and towns are Richmond, New Castle, Connersville, Hartford City and Rushville.

Delaware County is the most populous county in the region with 34 percent of the population. Economic Growth Region 6 experienced a population high of 382,459 in the 1970 Census and a population low of 340,392 in the 2000 Census. The projected 2010 population estimate is 350,647. Of the nine counties in Economic Growth Region 6, only six have projected increases in population growth through 2010.

According to the Indiana Department of Education, 70 percent of all 2008 high school graduates in Economic Growth Region 6 are pursuing further education. Of that total, 66.5 percent are enrolled in four year degree programs, 25 percent in two year degree programs, and 8.5 percent in vocational technical training programs. The population of 25 year olds and above in Economic Growth Region 6 is 227,709. Seventy-one percent of those individuals hold a high school diploma or above, and 9.8 percent are college graduates with a four-year degree or higher.

For year 2007, there were 127,990 jobs at industries within the region. Three major industry sectors, education & health services (includes public schools and medical facilities), manufacturing and trade, transportation & utilities, dominated the region in terms of employment. These three industry sectors account for over 65 percent of the region's 2007 industry employment. The largest employing industry in the region was education & health services which had 35,189 jobs or 27.5 percent of the total industry employment. The manufacturing industry was second with 25,253 jobs or 19.7 percent of total industry employment. The industry showing the most growth in workers over a six year period (since 2001) was professional & business services, increasing by 2,010 workers or 23.4 percent above 2001.

The all-industry average 2007 earnings for the region was \$31,439 per year versus Indiana's \$37,528. The region's 2007 average wage was an increase of 11.7 percent over the 2001 industry average wage. None of the region's 11 industry super-sectors (including government) had annual average earnings greater than the Indiana average for those industries. The region's manufacturing industry had the highest average earnings at \$43,831 per year, with construction second at \$34,704; the industry with the lowest annual earnings number was leisure and hospitality services at \$11,703. The same industries statewide paid an average \$51,144, \$44,754, and \$15,024 per year, respectively.

Source of Employment and Wage Data: Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW).

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